

CLAIMS

1. A method of provisioning a user interface to a device,
5 the method comprising the steps of

a) creating a container, the container comprising:
executable code for a user interface; one or more content
resources for use in the user interface; and metadata
relating to the or each content resource, the executable
10 code, the or each content resource and the metadata being
stored as serialised objects within the container;

b) transmitting the container to one or more devices;

c) extracting the contents of the container at the or
each device; and

15 d) executing the code to generate a user interface for
the device.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the metadata
comprise data determining access to the executable code
20 and/or the or each content resource to prevent unauthorised
access to the executable code and/or the or each content
resource during step (a).

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein if
25 during step a) the executable code and/or a content resource
is altered, the metadata is updated accordingly.

4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein, the
metadata relating to the or each content resources relates to
30 one or more hierarchical classifications, the hierarchical
classification(s) relating to the capabilities of a device.

5. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising the step of

e) processing the container contents into a format for transmission to a device, step e) being performed subsequent
5 to step a) and prior to step b).

6. A server for provisioning a user interface to one or more devices, the server comprising:

storage means to receive a data container;

10 editing means to enable the data container to be edited, in use the data container comprising executable code for a user interface; one or more content resources for use in the user interface; and metadata relating to the or each content resource, the executable code, the or each content resource
15 and the metadata being stored as serialised objects within the data container; and

transmission means for transmitting a data container to one or more devices.

20 7. A server according to claim 6, wherein the server further comprises a processing means configured, in use, to process a data container prior to transmission of a data container to one or more devices.

25 8. A data container comprising computer executable code for performing the method of any of claims 1 to 5.

9. A method of installing a user interface in a device, the method comprising the steps of:

30 a) receiving at a device a container over a communications network, the container comprising: executable code for a user interface; one or more content resources for

use in the user interface; and metadata relating to the or each content resource, the executable code, the or each content resource and the metadata being stored as serialised objects within the container;

5 b) extracting the contents of the container at the device; and

 c) executing the code to generate a user interface for the device.

10 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the metadata comprises data determining access to the executable code and/or the or each content resource to control access to the executable code and/or the or each content resource during step (b).

15 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the access-determining metadata can be updated in response to receiving a control message from the communications network.

20 12. A data container comprising computer executable code for performing the method of any of claims 9 to 11.

13. A device comprising a display, a user interface, storage means, processing means and a communication interface, the
25 device being configured, in use, to

 receive a data container from a communications network via the communications interface;

 store the data container in the storage means;

 process the data container using the processing means to
30 extract the contents of the data container, the data container comprising executable code for a user interface; one or more content resources for use in the user interface;

and metadata relating to the or each content resource, the executable code, the or each content resource and the metadata being stored as serialised objects within the data container;

- 5 form a user interface in accordance with the extracted contents of the data container; and
 display the user interface in the device display.

- 10 14. A device according to claim 13, wherein the metadata stored in the storage means comprises data determining access to the executable code and/or the or each content resource to control access to the executable code and/or the or each content resource.

- 15 15. A device according to claim 14, wherein the device is further configure, in use, to receive control commands from the communications network via the communications interface, the control commands updating the metadata that determines access to the code and/or content resource(s).